

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/392,550

Applicant(s)

CHEONG WAN, ERNEST YIU

Examiner

Sanjiv D. Shah

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Telephone interview on 9/28/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-20,22-36 and 38-51.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
- ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 9/28/05
- ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Lock See on 9/28/2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of creating a document suitable for hard copy reproduction, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) receiving information from at least one electronic source document, the information including a plurality of referential links establishing corresponding referential paths between components of the information;
- (b) defining a physical structure of the document suitable for hard copy reproduction and sufficient to reproduce the information;
- (c) defining a plurality of document links associated with the physical structure and corresponding to the referential links;
- (d) generating a functional link associated with each said document link, wherein each functional link forms a user interpretable and traversable physical path in the document between components of the information thereby corresponding to the received referential links; and

(e) grouping a number of the functional links in the document for hard copy reproduction by arranging plural ones of the document links to at least an individual one of the functional links,

wherein the physical structure comprises at least one single printable page and the functional links comprise at least one indicium printable onto a single page, and step (e) comprises merging plural ones of the document links to form a single indicium associated with a component on the page.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (currently amended): A method according to claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, wherein the physical structure comprises plural printable pages and the functional links comprise at least one cut-out tab formed in at least one of the pages, and step (e) comprises assigning plural ones of the document links to a single one of the at least one cut-out tab.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A method according to claim 3, wherein at least one cut-out tab is formed as part of a nest of correspondingly located tabs associated with plural ones of the pages.

Claim 5 (previously presented): A method according to claim 4, further comprising the step of retaining structure definitions of the document in a template for formatting at least one subsequent document in a corresponding fashion.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A method according to claim 4, further comprising the step of defining a presentational style to the document and applying the presentational style to the functional links to distinguish the functional links from the components.

Claim 7 (previously presented): A method according to claim 6, further comprising the step of retaining the presentational style of the document in a template for formatting at least one subsequent document with the presentational style.

Claim 8 (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of defining content specific document links and incorporating corresponding functional links into the document.

Claim 9 (previously presented): A method according to claim 8, wherein the content specific document links are user defined.

Claim 10 (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of associating a predetermined stylistic layout with the arranged functional links so as to vary a hard-copy reproduction of the document.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A method according to claim 10, wherein the predetermined stylistic layout implements a formation of cut-out tabs as at least some of the arranged functional links.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein step (e) comprises grouping the document links according to predetermined criteria associated with the document links, each group having associated therewith at least one corresponding arranged functional link.

Claim 13 (previously presented): A method according claim 1 or 12, wherein step (e) comprises the sub-steps of:

- (ea) importing the information into the physical structure to form the document; and
- (eb) applying the arranged links to the document.

Claim 14 (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of the functional links comprise corresponding cut-out tabs linking different pages of the document, and step (e) comprises the sub-steps of:

- (ec) identifying those of the document links that either (i) start or (ii) end on respective common pages of the document;
- (ed) for each common page, grouping together corresponding document links identified at step (ec); and

(ee) providing a cut-out tab functional link corresponding to each group of document links.

Claim 15 (previously presented): A method according to claim 14, wherein substep (ed) further comprises limiting each group of document links to those that either (i) end on different ones of the pages or (ii) start on different ones of the pages, and substep (ee) comprises providing a set of nested cut-out tab functional links, such that each member of the set corresponds to one document link of a corresponding group.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A method according to claim 15, wherein the groups are formed based upon a determinable relationship between corresponding components of the information.

Claim 17 (currently amended): An authoring system for creating a linear document that includes non-linear referential links, said system including:
means for specifying a linear document structure and hyperlinks of a hypermedia source document;
means for associating the hyperlinks with physical links able to be formed in multiple pages of the linear document;
means for modelling each physical link using a one-dimensional vector reproducible as a reader interpretable and traversable physical path in the linear document thereby functionally corresponding to the corresponding hyperlink; and

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means for grouping a number of the physical links in the linear document by arranging a plurality of the hyperlinks to at least an individual one of the physical links spanning at least two of the pages,

wherein the structure comprises at least one single printable page and the physical links comprise at least one indicium printable onto a single page, and step (e) comprises merging plural ones of the physical links to form a single indicium associated with a component on the page.

Claim 18 (currently amended): An authoring system for creating a linear document that includes non-linear referential links, said system comprising:

means for assessing hyperlinks within a source hypermedia document to which a linear document structure is to be applied;

means for associating the hyperlinks with physical links able to be formed in multiple pages of the linear document;

means for modelling each physical link using a one-dimensional vector reproducible as a reader interpretable and traversable physical path in the linear document thereby functionally corresponding to the corresponding hyperlinks; and

means for grouping a plurality of at least one of the physical links spanning at least two of the pages to correspond to a plurality of the hyperlinks,

wherein the structure comprises at least one single printable page and the physical links comprise at least one indicium printable onto a single page, and step (e) comprises

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merging plural ones of the physical links to form a single indicium associated with a component on the page.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A system for creating a linear document that includes non-linear referential links, said system comprising:

means for assessing hyperlinks within a source hypermedia document to which a linear document structure is to be applied;

means for associating the hyperlinks with physical links able to be formed in multiple pages of the linear document;

means for modelling each physical link using a one-dimensional vector reproducible as a reader interpretable and traversable physical path in the linear document thereby functionally corresponding to the corresponding hyperlinks;

means for grouping a number of the physical links in the document corresponding to a plurality of the hyperlinks to at least an individual one of the physical links traversing at least two of the pages;

means for applying the linear document structure and the arranged physical links to the hypermedia document to produce the linear document; and

means for reproducing the linear document,

wherein the structure comprises at least one single printable page and the physical links comprise at least one indicium printable onto a single page, and step (e) comprises merging plural ones of the physical links to form a single indicium associated with a component on the page.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A computer program product embodying a computer-readable program for implementing a method for creating a document suitable for hard copy reproduction, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

- (a) receiving information from at least one electronic source document, the information including a plurality of referential links establishing corresponding referential paths between components of the information;
- (b) defining a physical structure of the document suitable for hard copy reproduction and sufficient to reproduce the information;
- (c) defining a plurality of document links associated with the physical structure and corresponding to the referential links;
- (d) generating a functional link associated with each said document link, wherein each functional link forms a user interpretable and traversable physical path in the document between components of the information thereby corresponding to the received referential links; and
- (e) grouping a number of the functional links in the document by arranging plural ones of the document links to at least an individual one of the functional links, wherein the physical structure comprises at least one single printable page and the functional links comprise at least one indicium printable onto a single page, and step (e) comprises merging plural ones of the document links to form a single indicium associated with a component on the page.

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Claim 21 (canceled)

Claim 22 (previously presented): A computer program product according to claim 20, wherein the physical structure comprises plural printable pages and the functional links comprise at least one cut-out tab formed in at least one of the pages, and step (e) comprises assigning plural ones of the document links to a single one of the at least one cut-out tab.

Claim 23 (previously presented): A computer program product according to claim 22, wherein at least one cut-out tab is formed as part of a nest of correspondingly located tabs associated with plural ones of the pages.

Claim 24 (previously presented): A computer program product according to claim 23, wherein the method further comprises the step of retaining structure definitions of the document in a template for formatting at least one subsequent document in a corresponding fashion.

Claim 25 (previously presented): A computer program product according to claim 23, wherein the method further comprises the step of defining a presentational style to the document and applying the presentational style to the functional links to distinguish the functional links from the components.

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Claim 26 (previously presented): A computer program product according to claim 25, wherein the method further comprises the step of retaining the presentational style of the document in a template for formatting at least one subsequent document with the presentational style.

Claim 27 (previously presented): A computer program product according to claim 20, wherein the method further comprises the step of defining content specific document links and incorporating corresponding functional links into the document.

Claim 28 (previously presented): A computer program product according to claim 27, wherein the content specific document links are user defined.

Claim 29 (previously presented): A computer program product according to claim 20, further comprising the step of associating a predetermined stylistic layout with the arranged functional links so as to vary a hard-copy reproduction of the document.

Claim 30 (previously presented): A computer program product according to claim 29, wherein the predetermined stylistic layout implements a formation of cut-out tabs as at least some of the arranged functional links.

Claim 31 (previously presented): A computer program product according to claim 20, wherein step (e) comprises grouping the document links according to predetermined

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criteria associated with the document links, each group having associated therewith at least one corresponding arranged functional link.

Claim 32 (previously presented): A computer program product according to claim 20, wherein step (e) comprises the sub-steps of:

- (ea) importing the information into the physical structure to form the document; and
- (eb) applying the arranged links to the document.

Claim 33 (previously presented): A computer program product according to claim 20, wherein a plurality of the functional links comprises corresponding cut-out tabs linking different pages of the document, and step (e) comprises the sub-steps of:

- (ec) identifying those of the document links that either (i) start or (ii) end on respective common pages of the document;
- (ed) for each common page, grouping together corresponding document links identified at step (ec); and
- (ee) providing a cut-out tab functional link corresponding to each group of document links.

Claim 34 (previously presented): A computer program product according to claim 33, wherein step (ed) further comprises limiting each group of document links to those that either (i) end on different ones of the pages or (ii) start on different ones of the pages,

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and step (ee) comprises providing a set of nested cut-out tab functional links, such that each member of the set corresponds to one document link of a corresponding group.

Claim 35 (previously presented): A computer program product according to claim 34, wherein the groups are formed based upon a determinable relationship between corresponding components of the information.

Claim 36 (currently amended): A system for creating a document suitable for hard copy reproduction, said system comprising:

first means for receiving information from at least one electronic source document, the information including a plurality of referential links establishing corresponding referential paths between components of the information;

second means for defining a physical structure of the document suitable for hard copy reproduction and sufficient to reproduce the information;

third means for defining a plurality of document links associated with the physical structure and corresponding to the referential links;

fourth means for generating a functional link associated with each said document link, wherein each functional link forms a user interpretable and traversable physical path in the document between components of the information thereby corresponding to the received referential links; and

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fifth means for grouping a number of the functional links in the document for hard copy reproduction by arranging plural ones of the document links to at least an individual one of the functional links,

wherein the physical structure comprises at least one single printable page and the functional links comprise at least one indicium printable onto a single page, and said fifth means comprises means for merging plural ones of the document links to form a single indicium associated with a component on the page.

Claim 37 (canceled)

Claim 38 (previously presented): A system according to claim 36, wherein the physical structure comprises plural printable pages and the functional links comprise at least one cut-out tab formed in at least one of the pages, and said fifth means comprises means for assigning plural ones of the document links to a single one of the at least one cut-out tab.

Claim 39 (previously presented): A system according to claim 38, wherein at least one cut-out tab is formed as part of a nest of correspondingly located tabs associated with plural ones of the pages.

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Claim 40 (previously presented): A system according to claim 39, further comprising means for retaining structure definitions of the document in a template for formatting at least one subsequent document in a corresponding fashion.

Claim 41 (previously presented): A system according to claim 39, further comprising means for defining a presentational style to the document and for applying the presentational style to the functional links to distinguish the functional links from the components.

Claim 42 (previously presented): A system according to claim 41, further comprising means for retaining the presentational style of the document in a template for formatting at least one subsequent document with the presentational style.

Claim 43 (previously presented): A system according to claim 36, further comprising means for defining content specific document links and incorporating corresponding functional links into the document.

Claim 44 (previously presented): A system according to claim 43, wherein the content specific document links are user defined.

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Claim 45 (previously presented): A system according to claim 36, further comprising means for associating a predetermined stylistic layout with the arranged functional links so as to vary a hard-copy reproduction of the document.

Claim 46 (previously presented): A system according to claim 45, wherein the predetermined stylistic layout implements a formation of cut-out tabs as at least some of the arranged functional links.

Claim 47 (previously presented): A system according to claim 46, wherein said fifth means comprises means for grouping the document links according to predetermined criteria associated with the document links, each group having associated therewith at least one corresponding arranged functional link.

Claim 48 (previously presented): A system according to claim 36, wherein said fifth means comprises:
means for importing the information into the physical structure to form the document;
and
means for applying the arranged links to the document.

Claim 49 (previously presented): A system according to claim 36, wherein a plurality of the functional links comprises corresponding cut-out tabs linking different pages of the document, and said fifth means comprises:

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means for identifying those of the document links that either (i) start or (ii) end on respective common pages of the document;

means for grouping together, for each common page, corresponding document links identified by the means for identifying; and

means for providing a cut-out tab functional link corresponding to each group of document links.

Claim 50 (previously presented): A system according to claim 49, further comprising means for limiting each group of document links to those that either (i) end on different ones of the pages or (ii) start on different ones of the pages, and means for providing a set of nested cut-out tab functional links, such that each member of the set corresponds to one document link of a corresponding group.

Claim 51 (previously presented): A system according to claim 50, wherein the groups are formed based upon a determinable relationship between corresponding components of the information.

Claims 52-57 (canceled)

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The cited prior art fails to teach claimed invention alone or in combination.

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Specifically the cited prior art fails to teach physical structure comprising at least one single printable page and the functional links comprising at least one indicium printable onto a single page, and merging plural ones of the document links to form a single indicium associated with a component on the page in combination with other claimed limitations.


Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sanjiv D. Shah whose telephone number is (571) 272-4098. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bhavesh M. Mehta can be reached on (571) 272-7453. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Sanjiv D. Shah
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2625

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September 29, 2005